DURHAM

CITY OF DURHAM

1869
CITY OF MEDICINE

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Bo Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Larry C. Smith, Interim Chief of Police
Date: January 19, 2016
RE: **Authorization to Execute a Contract With VieVu LLC for a Total Amount Not to Exceed $366,738 for Body Worn Cameras and related Software and Services**

Executive Summary

The City of Durham Police Department (DPD) proposes to purchase body worn cameras to equip all sworn officers at the rank of Captain and below. The resulting audio/video files will provide evidence to accompany cases in the court system. Body camera footage will also be useful for investigations of complaints against officers. Agencies utilizing body worn cameras have also seen a reduction in the number of these complaints filed after implementation of a body worn camera program.

Recommendation

That the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed $366,738.00 with VieVu LLC for the purchase of body worn cameras and related VieVu software & services.

Background

Body worn cameras have emerged as an effective means for law enforcement agencies to provide video evidence of officer / citizen interactions. The footage that these cameras capture can be used in criminal as well as complaint investigations, for officer training purposes, and as evidence in court cases.

Over the past year, the DPD began researching body worn camera options to find a solution that would work well for officers and be as cost-effective as possible for the City. The department invited a number of vendors onsite for demonstrations of their products and also conducted a pilot program to give officers a chance to try out some of the cameras on the market and to help determine the type of features that would be important for the DPD to include in the ultimate selection.

In July, the City published a Request for Proposals (RFP) and received eight responsive proposals. These proposals were evaluated by a selection committee consisting of both sworn officers and non-sworn personnel from the department's Information Technology (IT) Division. The two solutions that were rated the highest by the committee were then field-tested, and the VieVu solution was ultimately selected.

The VieVu LE3 is widely deployed in the body worn camera market. It is in use in

more than 4000 law enforcement agencies worldwide. A few of the mid-size to large agencies which use the LE3 include Charleston SC, Phoenix AZ, and Oakland CA.

Issues/Analysis
There are a number of factors that can impact the success of a body worn camera program. In addition to the cost of cameras, agencies must also make certain they have accounted for the sizable storage requirements of video files. The DPD has chosen to add storage to its existing virtual server environment to support the body camera program. This will provide a high level of flexibility in options for managing the videos through alternative digital evidence systems in the future. Storing and managing the videos locally will also result in far less ongoing costs to the City than utilizing cloud-based solutions. The network infrastructure also needs to be in place to handle the bandwidth needs of transferring the large amount of video traffic that will be generated from remote sites to central storage without impacting other operations. Another cost of the program will be post-warranty repair and battery replacement costs. The department will have a better handle on these costs after the cameras have been in the field for a year, but based on failure rates provided by VieVu, $1,000 to $4,000 per year should be expected, and the DPD anticipates being able to fund this cost without additional appropriations.

It is also important that videos are retained according to the retention rules for the type of cases to which they apply. Therefore a new demand placed on officers is the tagging of their case-related videos with a classification (such as felony, misdemeanor, infraction, etc.) so that they are properly retained in the video storage system. The uploading of videos, especially large ones, can also be time-consuming. If these new demands on the officers' time are not considered in the design of an upload / tagging solution, the program could lead to significant new over-time expenses and loss of availability of shared workstations at district substations during shift change when they're needed for other functions besides video uploads. To alleviate this issue, the tag / upload solution being deployed by DPD is designed to allow officers to perform these tasks periodically during their shift.

It is also important to have a strong policy in place to govern a body worn camera program. The DPD's draft body worn camera general order has emerged from a combination of internal input, public input, and best practices from other agencies. The department released this draft to the public on December 17th in order to allow for further review and input from all interested parties. The final policy will be approved prior to the deployment of body worn cameras.

Alternatives
Do not deploy body worn cameras and rely solely on in-car cameras. This would greatly reduce the number of citizen interactions captured as many occur outside the field of view of an in-car camera.

Financial Impact
The funding of $366,738.00 will be provided by up to $250,000 from the FY2015-16 general fund and up to $116,738.00 from forfeiture funds.

SDBE Summary

The Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department reviewed the proposal submitted by VIEVU LLC of Seattle, Washington and have determined that they are in compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

SDBE REQUIREMENTS

No MSDBE or WSDBE goals were set.

WORKFORCE STATISTICS

Workforce statistics for VIEVU LLC are as follows:

Total Workforce	21	
Total Females	8	(38%)
Total Males	13	(62%)
Black Males	0	(0%)
White Males	12	(57%)
Other Males	1	5%)
Black Females	1	(5%)
White Females	7	(33%)
Other Females	0	(0%)

Attachments:
1. Cost Breakdown
2. Camera Photo / Demo
3. Draft Body Worn Camera Policy